

Amendments to the Drawings:

Applicants hereby amend Figures 1 and 15, and submit replacement formal drawing sheets for Figures 1 and 15, along with marked-up sheets showing changes made.

The specific changes made to the figures are:

Figure 1: The label “109” that is used to denote “FIRST STORAGE SECTION” is changed to “209”.

Figure 15: The label “1008” that is used to denote “PRINT AGAIN?” is changed to “1009”.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

No claims are currently being cancelled.

Claims 1 and 10-12 are currently being amended.

Claims 14-16 are currently being added.

This amendment and reply amends and adds claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending and adding the claims as set forth above, claims 1-12 and 14-16 are now pending in this application, whereby claims 4, 5, 9 and 13 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 101:

In the Office Action, claims 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Based on the amendments made to claims 10-12 so that they now recite “computer-readable medium storing an image processing program, this rejection is now moot.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph:

In the Office Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph, as being indefinite, due to the lack of antecedent basis support for “said setting information” in line 9 of that claim. Claim 1 has been amended to recite “setting information” in line 9 of that claim, thereby overcoming this rejection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b):

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 6-8 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,313,921 to Kadowaki. This rejection is traversed for the reasons given below.

Kadowaki does not disclose or suggest an image data creation section that creates image data based on setting information acquired by a setting information acquisition section, as explicitly recited in claim 1. The Office Action asserts that column 19, lines 9-13 of Kadowaki discloses the features of the image data creation section, but this assertion is incorrect. Namely, that portion of Kadowaki describes that a printer controller 41 accomplishes personalization by copying personalizing information to storage areas 62-1 to 62-6. That way, as described in column 19, lines 26-28 of Kadowaki, a plurality of apparatuses are able to share the same personalizing information.

Accordingly, presently pending independent claims 1, 6 and 10 are not anticipated by Kadowaki.

New Claims:

New claims 14-16 have been added to recite features seen best in Figures 14 and 15 of the specification, and as described on page 21 of the specification. Such features are believed to provide an additional basis of patentability for those claims, beyond the reasons given above for their respective base claim.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING CHANGE(S)

Title: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS,
IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD AND IMAGE
PROCESSING PROGRAM

Inventor(s): Shinji MAKISHIMA

Appl. No.: 10/796 142

FIG. 1

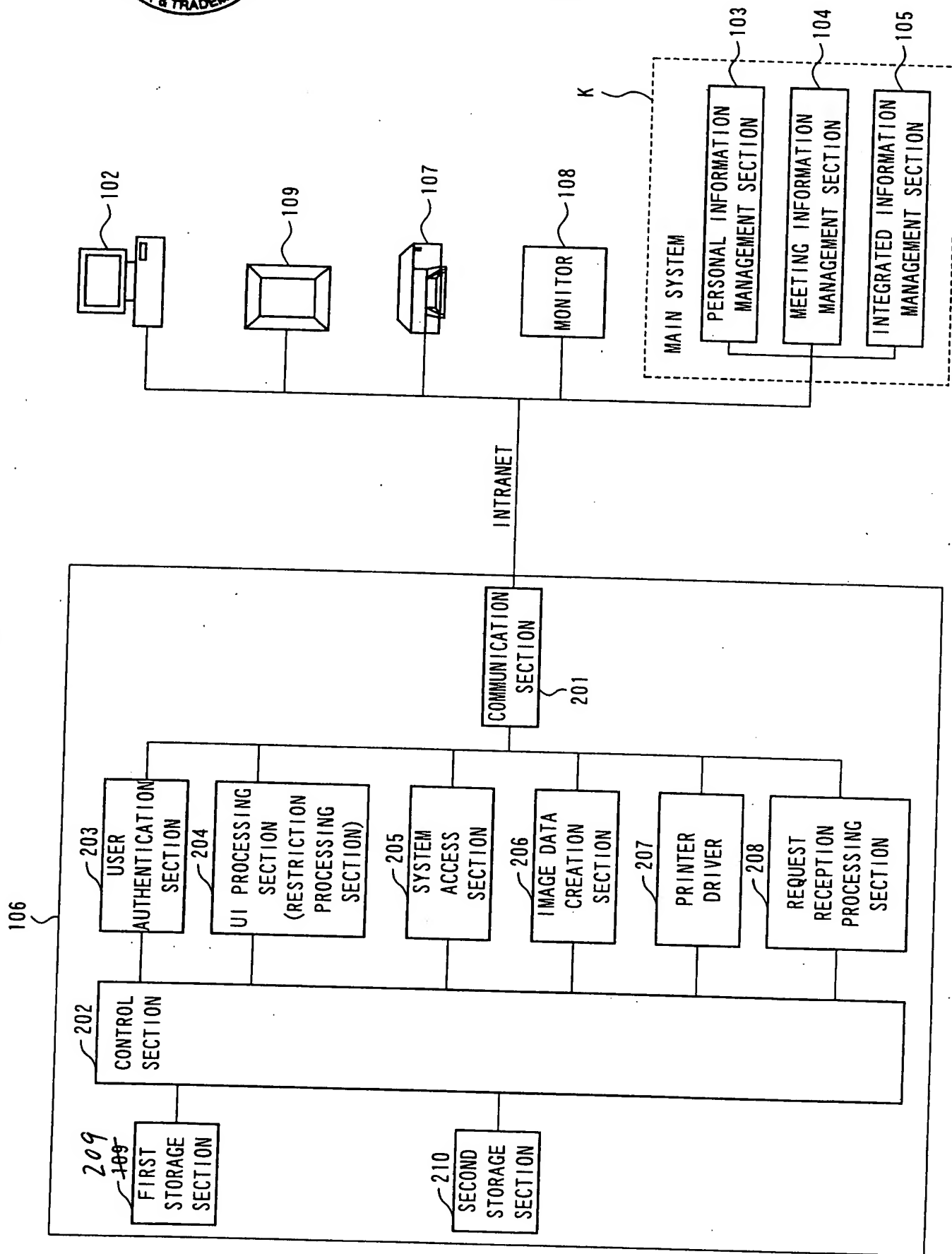




FIG. 14

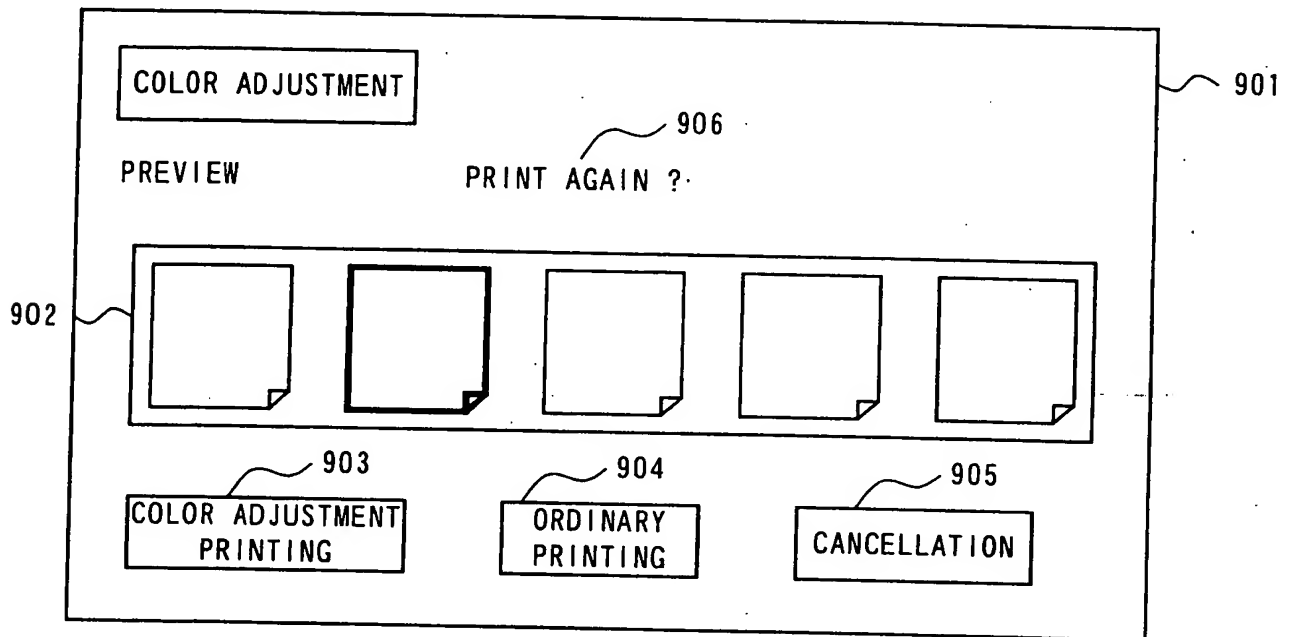


FIG. 15

